

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 8, 2005 LB 53

minutes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Aguilar. I am pleased that various of my colleagues have spoken in support of this bill. When it comes to things like this, I'm what you could call a purist, but I'm also a realist. I would like not to add the amendment. But because, as Senator Wehrbein mentioned, and others, this may smack of a compromise, I think something is better than what we have now, which in effect is nothing. So I'm going to support the committee amendment. I will support the bill. And this is one of those areas where I wish some people could begin to think of how they themselves wish to be treated. I used to go to church. I never go to church now. But every now and then, I will acknowledge, I will flip on the television and hear a preacher, I don't even know the denomination. Sometimes there are people on the radio preaching and telling people how they ought to live their life. And although invariably much is made of sinfulness, sinning, wrongdoing, and so forth, but it's like that's a backdrop or a canvas on which they're going to paint a different picture, using forgiveness as the paint. They will tell you that there is nothing you do which cannot be forgiven, that God is known for grace, mercy, and forgiveness. That is the message that all of the religions emphasize--forgiveness. It is what every person wants. But sometimes there's a tendency to feel self-righteous, and say, since I have not, quote, sinned, unquote, in the same way or to the degree that somebody else has, I should be forgiven but the other person should not. Now, one thing I remember when I was little and going to church, there was a verse...well, a story, and this person came to Jesus and asked how many times he should forgive a person. Should it be seven times? And Jesus said, no, seven times seventy. And there are people who cleave to a religion which carries the name or designation "Christian." I took that to mean that people of that persuasion followed what Jesus taught because they agreed with it. But many times it seems that they disagree with what Jesus taught, and substitute a harsh, punitive approach toward people who have, to use their word, sinned.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: One minute.